

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6808

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11754

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE REPLIST, YES, WE ASSUMED AMBASSADOR WOULD DELIVER IT IS NOW READY. SHOULD IT BE ACCOMPANIED BY FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CSCE ISSUES? SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR.

2. BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL: I AGREE THAT FESTIVAL COINCIDENT WITH EXHIBIT COULD BE ADVANTAGE. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THAT RAY BENSON HAD STRONG RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ON BOTH AT ONCE, AND FOR THAT REASON I AGREED TO RAISE THE QUESTION IN OUR CABLE (BUT EDITED IT TO MAKE IT LESS NEGATIVE THAN IT WAS WHEN IT CAME TO ME). MY OWN VIEW IS THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE BOTH, PARTICULARLY SINCE FRANK URSINO RUNS A TIGHT SHOP AND DOESN'T REQUIRE A LOT OF HELP. OUR ABILITY TO ARRANGE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A LOT OF SIDE EVENTS, HOWEVER, WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE TO SPREAD AROUND ON A NUMBER OF TIME-CONSUMING ACTIVITIES SIMULTANEOUSLY. HENCE OUR COMMENTS ON THE VARIOUS IDEAS ADVANCED BY UAIA, WHICH ALL CAME DOWN TO : FINE IF SOMEONE ELSE WILL ARRANGE, BUT WE WILL NOT HAVE MUCH TIME (OR LEVERAGE WITH SOVS) TO SPARE FROM FILM FESTIVAL ITSELF, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO BENSON BY TELEPHONE AND GET HIS VIEWS DIRECTLY.

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3. GLAD WE ARE ON SAME TRACK IN REGARD TO GORKY STREET PROPERTY. ROBIN WILL TRY TO GET MORE SPECIFICS ON WHAT SOVIETS PLAN TO DO WITH THEIR FLOORS THIS WEEK. MY IMPRESSION FROM TALKING TO KIEVANS DURING MY VISIT WAS THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO USE EITHER FRONT OR REAR ENTRANCE, BUT TO INSTALL SEPARATE ENTRANCE IN BACK, MAYBE WITH EXTERIOR STAIRCASE NEXT TO ADJOINING BUILDING AND BEHIND FENCE TO "OUR" COURTYARD. IF THIS IS CASE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESIGN FIRST TWO FLOORS COMPLETELY TO OUR DESIRES AND HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF STAIRS THERE.

4. SOVIET ACTION IN SLICING MORE PROPERTY OFF STRELETSKAYA PROPERTY (FRONT YARD) IS QUITE SERIOUS, SINCE THIS WOULD PERMIT THEM TO CONSTRUCT UGLY FENCE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ENTRANCE IF THEY CHOOSE. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD HOLD FIRM ON THIS AND ON FIVE AND HALF METER SPACE ON SIDE. (ASSUME YOU UNDERSTAND THAT FIVE AND ONE HALF METERS WOULD INCLUDE RPT INCLUDE LARGE TREE. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THIS TREE WILL NOT BE REMOVED. ACTUAL PASSAGE, BETWEEN LARGE TREE AND BUILDING, IS ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF METERS, WHICH SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR TRUCKS.)

5. UNLESS SOVIETS SHOW SOME WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE BOUNDARY ISSUE SOON, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO HAVE WORD WITH SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON, IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT OFTEN REPEATED MFA POSITION THAT MATTER IS NO LONGER NEGOTIABLE (WHOLE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO CHOP SEGMENTS FROM PROPERTY) IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. I'M NOT AT ALL SURE WHY SOVIETS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE EVEN CARETAKER IN N.Y. IF THEY UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH HERE. AFTER ALL, PINKERTON OR WACHENHUT SHOULD BE ABLE TO GUARD BUILDING FOR THEM.

6. IN OUR ALMOST CONTINUAL DISCUSSIONS OF THESE ISSUES, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW FOLLOWING, IF READILY AVAILABLE:

A. HOW MUCH GROSS SPACE DO SOVIETS HAVE IN THEIR BUILDING IN NEW YORK?; B. HOW MUCH SPACE FOR PARKING LOT, ETC?; C. WHETHER THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR OTHER PROPERTIES (FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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HOUSING, ETC), AND SIZE, IF KNOWN. IT IS OFTEN ALLEGED, PARTICULARLY BY KIEVANS, THAT WE ARE GETTING MUCH MORE THAN SOVS IN N.Y., WHICH DOESN'T SOUND REASONABLE TO ME OR ROBIN, BUT WE HAVE NO DATA TO USE IN REFUTATION.

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